



Foggy Bottom News

March 1999

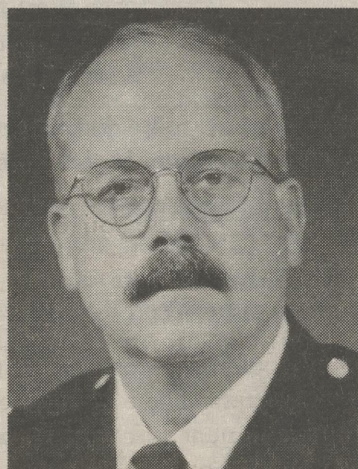
Published by the Citizens of Foggy Bottom and West End

Volume 41, No. 5

Asst. Chief to Address FBA

Terrance Gainer, who is second in command of the Metropolitan Police Department, will be the featured speaker at the February 22 Foggy Bottom Association meeting. It will be held at the Wyndham Bristol Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., at 7:30 p.m. All residents of Foggy Bottom and West End are welcome.

Gainer, who is Executive Assistant Chief of Police, was asked by MPD Chief Ramsey to join his department soon after Ramsey took over. He is charged with overseeing operational services carried out by three Regional Operations Commands and the Special Services Branch. Prior to coming to Washington in May, 1998, Gainer headed the Illinois State Police.



His experience includes service in the U.S. Navy, as a Chicago police officer and as the chief legal counsel for the department, and in drug enforcement posts with the U.S. Department of Transportation in D.C.

Chief Gainer is known for his candor and sense of humor. These, combined with his "take" on all the current and future changes occurring in the Metropolitan Police, should make for a thought-provoking and enlightening evening.

Update D. C. Council "Closes" West End Alley

The D. C. City Council early in February approved legislation "closing" the alley which ran between 22nd and 23rd Street and between L and M Streets, finding "that the public alleys in Square 51... are unnecessary for alley purposes...." This turns title to the alley land, valued at many thousands of dollars, over to the developers of the abutting properties, Millennium Partners. The building project will boast a Ritz-Carlton Hotel, retailers including a large health club, and a substantial number of

residential units, either rental or condominium. The bill, introduced by Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans, estimates that the project will provide \$16 million in tax revenue, 822 fulltime construction jobs, and 667 permanent fulltime jobs.

Councilmember-at-Large Phil Mendelson opposed the bill for a short time, but when satisfied that a zoning order would maintain the residential component, joined his colleagues in a unanimous vote in favor. Councilmember Evans recused himself from the vote due to a potential conflict of interest; his wife's real estate firm's may bid to handle the condominium sales. (See **Update**, p. 4)

DPW Reverses Hospital Requirements

On February 8 the D. C. Department of Public Works filed an amended statement with the Board of Zoning Adjustment backing away from the agency's recommendations made in January. The new filing on the proposed hospital on the western side of 23rd Street between Washington Circle and the I Street Metro plaza will make few changes in the original plans.

DPW had made strong recommendations that the emergency entrance and the loading dock be moved from New Hampshire Avenue and 24th Street, respectively, to 23rd Street, and that the main entrance be moved to New Hampshire Avenue. The hospital agreed to have ambulances enter on 23rd Street; they will make paving changes and install signs to alert pedestrians, estimated to be 36,000 per day, to the presence of the emergency entrance. In addition, "a new traffic signal, installed on New Hampshire Avenue, just south of the emergency room entrance, will alleviate the possibility of blocking the emergency access exit."

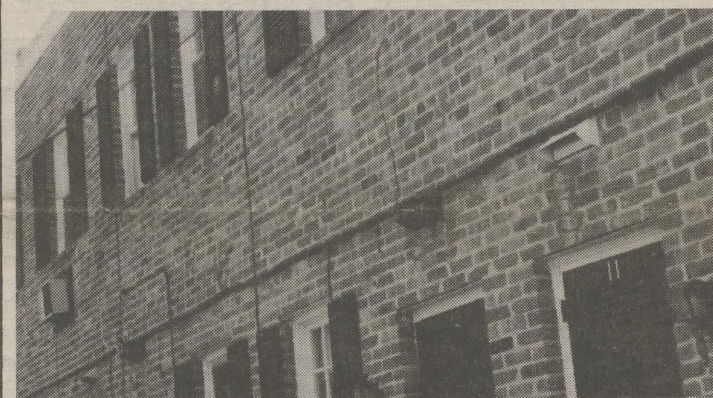
DPW's second report indicates there is no longer objection to the loading dock being located on 24th Street, just north of the Metro mall. The hospital has offered and DPW has agreed to "increasing the depth of the loading dock to allow for all trucks to enter the dock and the doors on the dock to be lowered during loading and unloading...and proposes to

(See **Hospital**, p.6)

The FBA -- The 1950's, The Early Years

By Rick Churchill

The seven neighbors who met at 11 Snow's Court in the middle of March 1955 were afraid. Congress was threatening to pass an ordinance to tear down their alley homes and they didn't know what to do about it. Whatever they decided, they knew it would take organization and a lot of work to save not just their homes but everyone else's



in the area. This was a bold vision in a southern segregated city. "The sense of the meeting reflected enthusiasm for the complete rehabilitation of Foggy Bottom and the recognition of the need to have all interested persons cooperate to attain such rehabilitation." Thus wrote Margaret Franzen, newly-elected secretary, of the first meeting of the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association.

Paul Flints, who hosted the first meeting, was elected President. He and the other new FBRA members went door to door in the following weeks, convincing neighbors to join the association and fight the powers that threatened

(See **FBA**, p. 6)

FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEETING

All Residents Welcome

Speaker:

Terrance Gainer

Executive Assistant Chief
Metropolitan Police Department

Monday, February 22, 1999

Wyndham Bristol Hotel

2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

7:30 p.m.

(Next Meeting, Monday, March 29, 1999)

The Becker Beat



Captain McLean and Lieutenant White (see News from 2D) each indicated that despite our requests that MPO-soon-to-be-Sgt. Echols remain in PSA 207, the Chief will probably stick to his policy of moving newly-promoted sergeants to different posts. We feel an exception should be made in this case; PSA has lost its captain, two lieutenants, and all its sergeants in a relatively short time, leaving no supervisory personnel with any experience in the PSA. Add to that the fact that they are transferred to "distance" them from fellow officers; Echols has been doing the sergeant's and some of the lieutenant's work for many months; the men and women of 207 know he is their supervisor, not their peer. For a Police Chief who trumpets his management goals, this case does not seem to be an example of a wise executive decision. Why not let him stay until the next set of promotions and then move him and broaden his experiences?

Leona Schramm

Leona Schramm, 75, a resident of The York Apartments on 20th Street, died in late January following a collapse near the corner of 20th and F Streets, N. W. Schramm was raised in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and came to Washington in the late 1940s to work for a family, later establishing her own physical therapy practice. Active at the First Trinity Lutheran Church, she helped with church breakfasts and annual bazaars, and sang in the choir. She also conducted a Bible study and service at the Lisner Home.

In spite of a heart condition, she kept a busy schedule of community activities, including caring for Lucille Molinelli's pets after Lucille's accident. Her Foggy Bottom friends will miss this lovely and lively member of our community.

GWU Offers Routed Shuttle Service

The GWU Police, Student Association and the Division of Student and Academic Support Service run a shuttle service on a set route from 7:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. which they make available to residents as well as students, faculty and employees. Residents are invited to use the shuttle for evening and night-time rides along the route.

The shuttle "travels a regular route around campus for transporting GW students, faculty and staff" and that "members of the GW

United Church Presents Lenten Series

The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions, written by Marcus J. Borg and N. T. Wright, will be the resource for the 1999 Lenten Study Series at the United Church. The series begins on February 24 and continues each Wednesday until March 31. The study sessions will be held at 6:00 p.m. at 1920 G Street, N. W.

According to Senior Pastor H. Donald Smith, the two authors are popular "Jesus Scholars" and each offers a dramatically different view of who the historical Jesus was and what he might mean for the church today. For more information, call 331-1495.

community" may stand at one of the 14 designated stops, all of which have lobby areas to wait in.

The southeast corner of the route is on 19th Street at Thurston and Mitchell residence halls. The current brochure shows pickups at The Aston on New Hampshire Avenue and the Pennsylvania House, but notes service will only be provided "while they are being used as residence halls."

The university also provides an escort service for those not near a shuttle bus stop, but a GW ID card is required.

To obtain a brochure, entitled "Safe and Sound," call 994-7433. It also contains a section on EMeRG, the Emergency Medical Response Group, a team providing emergency medical services to the community. They can be reached by calling the University Police at 994-6610.



March 1999

Volume 41, No. 5

Foggy Bottom News

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. All editorial assistance is contributed on a volunteer basis by residents of the area.

Editor.....Ellie Becker
Ad Manager.....Steve Timlin
Contributors.....Laetitia Combrinck,
John Graves, Kate McLeod,
Rennie Melonson, Jim Patterson

To place ads, call Steve Timlin at 338-8750. Cost for classified ads is 60¢ per word; a 2-inch high by 2-column (or 4-inch high by 1-column wide) ad—the smallest available—is \$38.50.

FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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News from 2D

McLean and White Join PSA 207

New at the Second District and in charge of PSA 204, 209 and Foggy Bottom/West-End's PSA 207 is Captain Ralph McLean. He was aptly described as a "big guy," and had a ready smile and an easy manner. During his career



with MPD he has served as an officer with the Special Operations Division, headquartered at 23rd and L Streets, as a sergeant in the Harbor Division, and as a lieutenant in the Third District around the Adams Morgan area. He comes to 2D from a post as head of the Harbor Division. He is married and has a 14-month old child, "a really fun age."



Also new to PSA 207 is Lieutenant Andrew (Andy) White, newly assigned to replace Lt. Robert Atcheson, who transferred to the Third District. White most recently has been at the Police Training Academy, and

served earlier in the Youth Division, in northeast's 5th District, and as an officer in the 2nd District from 1987-1989. He is married and has 4 children, has a slight build, light hair and wears glasses, and displayed eagerness to lead the officers of PSA 207.

New Names in PSA 208

Lt. Lanciano has advised that PSA 208 has welcomed Officers Sherri Fox and Alphonso McAllister, both on the day shift. Also new, after serving on the midnight shift, is Sgt. John Mitchell. The community meeting for PSA 208 will be held on Wednesday, March 10, 7:00 p.m., at the State Plaza Hotel on F Street.

December and January Crime Stats

During December, there were 4 robberies, 4 burglaries, 15 thefts, 18 thefts from auto and 1 stolen auto in PSA 207 for a total of 50 offenses. In January there was 1 robbery, 1 assault, 3 burglaries, 13 thefts, 12 thefts from auto, and 1 stolen auto, totaling 40, down from both December, 1998 and the same month last year when there were 59 offenses. In PSA 208 December's total was 67: 3 robberies, 1 assault, 9 burglaries, 25 thefts, 16 thefts from auto, and 3 stolen autos. In January there were 1 robbery, 1 assault, 6 burglaries, 35 thefts, 19 thefts from auto, and 3 stolen autos, for a total of 79 offenses, a dramatic decrease from January 1998's 109 offenses. And - according to the report, only one of the thefts and burglaries involved a residence. Copies of the full December and January reports will be available at the FBA meeting February 22.

207 Officers Respond to Homeless Complaints

Pursuant to complaints at the FBA meeting last month, and calls to 2D headquarters, MPO Echols and other 207 officers responded and took what action they are allowed to take at the encampments under the Whitehurst Freeway. They saw to it that accumulated trash was hauled away and warnings were issued to those in violation of the law.

GW Establishes Alcohol Abuse Group

A cross-section of students, faculty and staff from the GWU community has been tapped to serve on a newly established campus task force on alcohol abuse. Members of the task force will discuss GW policies and new federal legislation that permits universities to bypass privacy laws in notifying parents about their student's alcohol and drug use.

A recent survey found that 44 percent of college students are binge drinkers. "The dangers of alcohol abuse and binge drinking among college students have been a growing and troubling issue for higher education professionals concerned with student behavior health and academic performance," says GW's Dean of Students Linda Donnels.

The Campus Alcohol Abuse Task Force will be chaired by Senior Assistant Dean of Students Mike Walker. Members include Rodney Johnson, director of Parent Services, and Carrie Potter, president of the Student Association. The task force expects to have its work completed by the spring of 1999.

Use That Membership Card

Your bright red FBA membership card is valuable in a variety of ways. It allows access to GWU's Gelman Library (take photo ID as well), and best of all to member discounts at the friendly places listed below. Think of these Foggy Bottom businesses first; they support our neighborhood and save money as well.

Our thanks to them for offering this bonus to those who support the FBA and this great neighborhood!

FBA Member Discounts

Donatello Restaurant, 2514 L St., NW 333-1485
10% off dinner Monday-Thursday

Foggy Bottom Café, 924 25th St., NW 338-8707
15% off dinner after 8pm Tuesday-Saturday and after 5 pm Sunday-Monday

Magic Gourd Restaurant, 528 23rd St., NW 466-3995
10% off lunch or dinner

Marshall's Bar and Grille, 2524 L St., NW 333-1155
10% off with exception of happy hour prices; not to be used with other coupons

Mail Boxes Etc., 2117 L St., NW 775-4302--NEW
6¢ per copy; 5¢ over 100; 5% on UPS shipping; 10% on supplies (packaging); 7% on office supplies; \$1/page fax send & receive, long distance charges apply

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Watergate Gallery & Frame Design, 2552 Virginia Ave., NW.
338-4488 10% off custom framing

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Remember: Ask for FBA Member Discounts
Call for Extended Holiday Hours

West End Library Adds New Librarian

To help with the new extended hours at the West End Library, a new librarian has started work there. He is **Andrew Smith**, and he joins **Barbara Kubinski**, head librarian, as well as assistant librarians **Sarah Mitchell** and **William Coles**, the children's librarian. The desk staff is made up of **Deborah Downing**, Desk Supervisor, assisted by **Anthony Hook** and **Rann Shrouk**. **Calvin Davis** is the library's custodian.

The new library hours were reported last month, but bear repeating:

Monday and Wednesday
1:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
and Saturday
10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Tax Help at West End Library

Income tax assistance is being made available to seniors two afternoons a week at the West End Library. Sponsored by AARP in cooperation with IRS, seniors may seek help on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00-5:00 p.m. The West End Library is located at 24th & L Streets, N.W.

(Update, from page 1)

Watergate Safeway Changes Under Way

Customers at the Watergate Safeway should have

noticed various changes in the store, according to Sherry Conrad who manages the Foggy Bottom outlet of the supermarket chain. In September Ms. Conrad and two other Safeway executives appeared at the FBA meeting to hear residents' concerns about the store's service and selection.

The store manager told the *News* that progress has been made and will continue as time and funds allow. Budget requests for new dairy and frozen food cases are working their way to approval, expected in late spring. New security poles have been added to reduce the loss of carts, and all cases and walls are the subject of a systematic cleaning and painting, which Ms. Conrad hopes will be completed by March 1. She said, "It is a gradual process, and the employees are pitching in, and when it is done the place will be bright and shiny."

Major changes are being made in the checkout department. By observation they learned that moving the express lines away from the door and relocation of the vending machines will help ease congestion, and they are seeking feedback on the success or failure of these changes.

Ms. Conrad also said there are several new employees, and that she has placed on the cashiers the responsibility to conform to a standard maximum of 5 persons in an express line and 2.25 in the other lines. If those standards are exceeded, the cashiers are mandated to call for assistance, using a spec-



At Leader's gala; Jean Efron and Jelly, Mary Vincentas, Elizabeth Dole and Leader, Chi-Chi (Leader's personal groomer) with Sable, Claire Cifci and Nikki, and Marija Hughes with Shadow.

One Hundred Nineteen Years Old!

By Claire Ciftci

A special social event in Foggy Bottom took place at the Watergate complex on a recent Saturday. It was the occasion of a party honoring Leader on his 17th birthday. Leader, the Schnauzer owned by Senator and Mrs. Dole, shared festivities with four

neighborhood canines—also mature seniors.

During the morning gala the guests were engaged in a photo shoot by the Pedigree Portraits photographers from Reston, Virginia. Doggie treats were dispensed, and owners who brought their pets were served delicious portions of birthday cake. It was a flurry of politely busy little dogs wandering from living room to patio for

assorted needs.

This celebration was sponsored and hosted by Mary Vincentas who is Leader's "Nanny" and caregiver. Partygoers were privileged to share the festivities with Senator and Mrs. Dole.

We are looking forward to the release of the book, "Follow the Leader: A Dog's Eye View of Washington" -- due for completion by June.

ific employee's name from a list provided by the manager. That employee knows that there are customers waiting, and to the extent possible serves those near the head of adjoining lines rather than those at the end.

The store management looks forward, Ms. Conrad said, to hearing its customers' reactions to the changes.

Memo of Agreement on Red Cross Building Published

A memorandum of agreement on the proposed new Red Cross building has been circulated by the Advisory

Council on Historic Preservation. The Council, in its letter dated January 29 to a long list of community representatives, asked for comments by February 19. The Red Cross will dismantle its current building and incorporate "certain elements of it in the Project," but will be subject to various stipulations. Included are requirements as to project design, landscaping, historic documentation, archaeology, and neighborhood improvements. The latter section specifies that the Red Cross will clean, landscape and maintain a public park, allow residents access to its Metro

shuttle bus, its cafeteria and facilities for meetings, and improve the lighting and streetscape.

The National Capital Planning Commission has also distributed an environmental assessment supplement document (2" thick), and asks for comments by February 25 to Eugene Keller, NCP, 801 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20576. Action on the project will take place at one of its regularly scheduled monthly meetings later this year.

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Two Longtime FB Folks Move Away

Matthews Retires From St. Mary's Court

Bill Matthews retired December 31, after 19 years of distinguished service to Saint Mary's Court. Bill successfully promoted positive identity for Saint Mary's Court in the Foggy Bottom community; and made substantial contributions to the establishment of Saint Mary's Court as a community center. In countless ways he established the identity of the Court for its residents, the community and all those who are associated in any way with the facility.

St. Mary's Court and the Foggy Bottom community will miss Bill and all the contributions he made. We wish him a pleasant retirement.

Jessie Stewart Retires

Jessie Stewart, who worked for many years as a resident manager in Foggy Bottom, has retired and now lives in the Baltimore area. Jessie served as manager of the Potowmac Overlook condominium on 26th Street for about 15 years, and earned high marks from the building residents for her fine service. Earlier she had worked at the Claridge at 25th and K, and also served several terms as Secretary of the Foggy Bottom Association.

Foggy Bottom Folks

John Bardon, longtime resident of the Jefferson House, has been living in Wisconsin for some time with the family of the late Judi Thomas. He moved there when Judi was ill, and after her death he also became ill and could not return. Jefferson House's Yogi Sathasivan has heard the John is now in Oakhill Terrace House, an assisted-living facility at 1805 Kensington Drive, Waukesha, WI 53188. Our very best wishes go to him.

The law firm of **Jack Olender**, a longtime Foggy Bottom resident, continues to make the news by winning awards. The latest is one from the D.C. Bar Assoc-

iation's Young Lawyers Section. At the dinner where it was presented, Olender gave a posthumous tribute to Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr.

The bulletin of St. Stephen Martyr Church printed a letter recently written to Cardinal Hickey praising the hospital ministry of **Father Valentine Keveny**. The writer's 86-year old mother entered the hospital and for a month prior to her death, according to the letter, Father Val visited daily and "brought not only his enormous kindness, warmth, and sense of humor, but also his prayers and his bedrock faith." The patient's Lutheran minister also visited, and

"there was a Lutheran/Catholic dialogue going on at G.W. Hospital with only the love of Christ at its center."

The proposed demolition of the Park Lane building at 21st and Pennsylvania is being mourned by many Foggy Bottom residents. The building housed a warm and neighborly drugstore, later a sundries store and restaurant/deli, now closed. In addition to a myriad of small offices and services in the building itself, it was home to IM's Boutique, a small store packed with women's clothing for sale at reasonable prices. According to **Olga Corey**, **Jane Lingo**, and **Mary Lou Hennessy**, it also featured **Sunny's** marvelous way with alterations, a talent to be sorely missed.

Bill Williams of 26th Street reported that **Marshall's**, the local restaurant and bar on L Street, has become an informal neighborhood lost-and-found site. That's one more reason to stop by for one of Marshall's burgers or other fare.

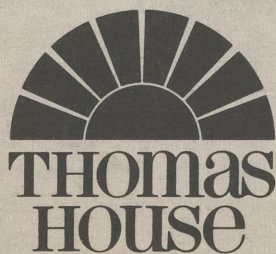
It will come as no surprise to our readers that Columbia Plaza's **Dorothy Miller** was on hand for Mayor Williams' first open-door session. Arriving early, she was able to get a "lottery" number, and was one of 13 citizens to have a 10-minute, one-on-one session with the Mayor. She—and others who did not get to speak to the Mayor—were directed by staff members to another floor to relate their concerns to D.C. agency heads. Among them were MPD Chief Ramsey, Fire Chief Donald Edwards, and Dept. of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs head Lloyd Jordan.

Neighbors on Queen Anne's Lane were delighted that **Melanie** and **Ray Chamberlain** hadn't forgotten their many FB friends when they moved back to Colorado. Ray was here on business recently and Melanie graced our neighborhood several times. They were sorry that the "Chamberlain Park," as a number of residents call the small gathering-place on 26th Street, did not look better. (The Chamberlains were a driving force behind frequent park cleanups -- and cleanup parties!) When they return for a visit in the spring it will look much better.

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FBNews Seeks New Ad Manager

Steve Timlin, who has been serving admirably as the ad manager for the News, has asked to be relieved of these duties. The position, which involves compensation, involves dealing with current News advertisers and soliciting new ads. Interested parties may contact the editor at 337-5528.

(Hospital, from page 1) keep the loading dock doors closed except when trucks are entering or leaving..."

GW also will have staff direct trucks, restrict loading hours, and "request that all delivery vehicles not use the residential streets of Foggy Bottom..." Residents, according to Doug Abbey of the Foggy Bottom Historic District Conservancy, feel that signs and paving will have little effect and the other suggestions are virtually unenforceable.

The hospital has also declined to move the main entrance to New Hampshire Avenue, and the two driveways at that entrance will cross the heavily-traveled sidewalk.

The DPW report also states: "We expect the existing hospital site will be developed as a large office facility, which will also generate increased traffic," added to that expected from the Millennium project at 22nd and M.

The Board of Zoning Adjustment will hold another hearing on this application on Tuesday, March 2 at 9:30 a.m., in the 2nd floor hearing room, Room 220, 441 4th Street, N.W.

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Dir. Catherine Miller

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Foggy Bottom Hist. Dist.

(FBA from p. 1)

their quaint little row homes. The immediate result of this crisis seemed almost anticlimactic. Early records report: "[Two of the original attendees] Elizabeth Wharton of UPI and Rose McKee of INS were well thought of on the Hill and were influential in squashing this legislation." However, beneath this almost casual account belies a beginning commitment to save the residential component of this neighborhood.

FBA Incorporates in 1959

This year marks the fortieth anniversary of the incorporation of the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association, long since known as the Foggy Bottom Association. The problems faced now are very much the same problems the founders of the FBA faced. Only back then, the task was much more daunting. The Washington that emerged from World War II and the Korean War was a city in transition, and one slum that the government wanted to change was the notorious Foggy Bottom area. Since the 1920s prostitution and gambling flourished openly in Foggy Bottom. Hughes Court (Mews) was reportedly a center for drug trafficking in the city. And as a retired policeman who patrolled Foggy Bottom at that time recalled: "I was literally afraid to enter Snow's Court. I would stand at the entrance to the alley and holler 'Anybody want a cop?' If anybody did, I'd call the station house for help."

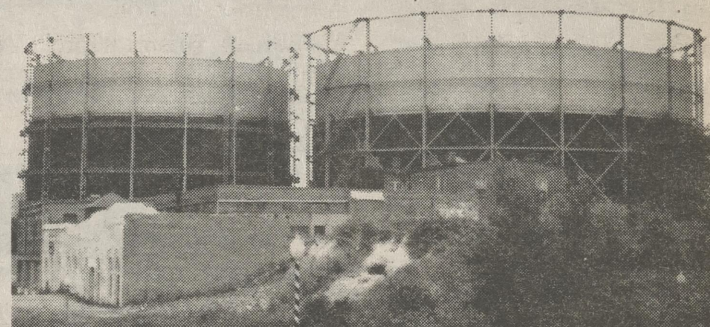
Developers, GW & Highways Compete

There were three major factions competing over Foggy Bottom's future. Big developers were tearing down many of the homes because the area was newly zoned for high density development. George Washington University's manifest destiny sought to extend its campus through Foggy Bottom to the Potomac River. And lastly, the Federal Government eyed this neighborhood as an ideal location to build highways to transport their growing work force to and from the suburbs. However, unforeseen by these grandiose planners was a growing number of government employees and professional people who had discovered the convenience of living close to work. Renovated "alley dwellings" and surrounding frame and brick row homes became affordable housing, first in Georgetown and then in Foggy Bottom and Capitol Hill. Snow's Court was developed in the early 1950's by a young medical student, Jonas Robitscher. His wife, Jean, was in attendance at the first FBRA meeting. The newly-formed group voted to petition the Planning Commission for urban renewal assistance and protection. Because Foggy Bottom was in "blighted" condition, the area would qualify for FHA loans for home buying and restoration. (Financing was nearly impossible to secure from private banks at the time.) "We felt that an Urban Renewal area would receive more careful consideration from the Department of Highways..." wrote Hunter and Shirley Kennard, early members of the FBA. "Through the assistance of good planning Foggy Bottom could have developed in a more orderly fashion, with provisions for park land (there wasn't any), adequate parking areas and a more thoughtful interspersing of high-and low-rise housing and apartments." Jean Robitscher drafted and presented their petition before the Urban Redevelopment Commission.

The Planning Commission acted on the FBRA's request and allocated money for Foggy Bottom in late 1955. However, a group of land speculators sued the Commission and so delayed the process that by 1958 Foggy Bottom was no longer considered a "blighted" area. The chance for a planned community was lost and random development would continue to this day. "The one tangible result of the Urban Renewal attempt," recalled Shirley Kennard, "was the blocking of the westward expansion of GWU (beyond 24th Street) and the revision of its master plan."

Potomac Plaza Was Milestone

The main reason Foggy Bottom was no longer a "blighted" area was the construction of the Potomac Plaza. In 1955 nothing so symbolized the old Foggy Bottom as the abandoned gas storage tanks at 25th Street and



Gas works

Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Virginia Avenue. As noted by Mary Healy, one of the Plaza's first owners, "Who in their right mind would want to buy an apartment down there?... I saw the ugliness of decay and desertion but fortunately I knew what could be done with old things to make them beautiful and interesting once again." The success of Potomac Plaza when it opened in 1957 caused the large-scale restoration and improvement of Foggy Bottom. The FBRA supported this milestone development not only because it turned commercial land into residential use, but also because the Plaza provided important amenities for the neighborhood (the McLachlen Bank and Harding's Beauty Salon).

Although thwarted in its attempt for Urban Renewal protection the FBRA still sought more zoning restrictions where, realistically, none existed. Under the leadership of Herbert Socks and the dedication and time of countless other members, the FBRA won a stunning achievement in 1958 when the Zoning Commission issued more restrictive regulations (three-story density vs. eight-story) for part of



Potomac Plaza

Foggy Bottom. Of course, the decision was appealed and not until 1961 was the appeal rejected. Yet as the decade came to a close, Herbert Socks' words before the Zoning Commission in 1961 best summed up the new spirit and vitality of the FBA and the neighborhood. "Far-sighted citizens undertook the renovation of this slum area without help from the Federal or District Government. As a result of their initiative and risked funds, land and property values have increased, the crime rate has practically disappeared and, remarkably enough, the citizens of this community have accomplished in a very short time what has taken years and vast sums of money to accomplish in other areas of the city." The FBRA was a conduit for this transformation. Yet the greatest neighborhood changes were destined for the next decade and there were already murmurs that the "old spirit" just wasn't there anymore. Would the FBA be up for the challenge? Next month we'll examine the tumultuous 1960s.

Rick Churchill served as president of the Foggy Bottom Association from 1982 to 1984, and at one time also was the assistant to the ANC. He was born and raised in D. C. and, though transplanted several years ago to a small community near Philadelphia, the city and especially Foggy Bottom are still a part of him. He and his wife Kathy Haley, who was FBNews editor for two years, are both free-lance writers.

The Local Kaleidoscope

By John Graves

Columbia Plaza Conundrum

A visit to the Columbia Plaza "Mall" showed it is impossible to exit conveniently through the elevator to the garage where one can easily walk to the Watergate or elsewhere in that direction. The "Mall" is a pleasant place with shops to visit and outdoor tables in good weather, but if one wants to head west it is impossible, unless you have a magic plastic card for the huge iron gate. Here is the mystery: one can enter the "Mall" from the west through the garage, but one cannot exit through that massive iron gate! Oh, yes, you can walk the long way around the 23rd Street and Virginia Avenue route, but that beautiful "mall" with all the walkways should have some sort of stairs for the western exits. I have discussed this with Mr. Copman, the Columbia Plaza Manager, who explained to me that it was for "security" that people could not exit that iron gate without the magic plastic card—but you can enter! Can someone 'splain that to me?



This brings to mind the vacancies in the commercial area of the "mall." Informants tell us that they moved due to a tripling of their rent! And wouldn't it be nice to have another restaurant in one of those vacancies? The Magic Gourd is a fine place, but how about a diversion? The pricey Kennedy Terrace (when it is open) is elegant with a spectacular view, but a budget buster—same with the Watergate Hotel dining room. The State Plaza is nice, and the pizza place and the Oriental carryout in the Watergate Mall are great. If you are in a rush they can't be beat. But for those who like to sit at lunch or dinner, wouldn't it be nice to have a diversion remove the "for rent" signs in the Columbia Plaza? Maybe those "security" gates would then be opened.

Neighborhood Datebook

Monday, February 22: Foggy Bottom Association meeting, with Executive Assistant Chief Terrance Gainer, Metropolitan Police Department, as featured speaker. Wyndham Bristol Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 7:30 p.m. ALL FOGGY BOTTOM RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME!

Wednesday, February 24: Lenten Study Series, first session, focusing on "The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions," scheduled for each Wednesday until March 31. United Church, 1920 G Street, N.W. 6:00 p.m. (See article elsewhere in this issue.)

Wednesday, February 24: Reading by book commentator Alan Cheuse from his latest short story collection, "Lost and Old Rivers: Stories." Cheuse appears on NPR, and is the author of three novels and two short story collections. Arts Club of Washington, 2017 I Street, N.W. Phone 331-7282. 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 24: Health Lecture, "Stomach Pains? Irritable Bowel? Ulcers? Colon Cancer?" presented by Marie Borum, M.D., M.P.H. The gastroenterologist gives an overview of women's most common digestive health issues, what is normal, what needs immediate attention, what the risks are for development of disease. For info/reservation call 1-888-449-3627. GWU Hospital Auditorium, 901 23rd Street, N.W. 7:00 p.m.

Friday, February 26: Noon Concert featuring Carlos Cesar Rodriguez, pianist. A native of Venezuela, he made his debut at age 11, and has performed with noted musicians Zubin Meyta, Isaac Stern and Mstislav Rostropovich. Arts Club of Washington, 2017 I Street, N.W. Phone 331-7282. 12:00 noon.

Tuesday, March 2: D. C. Board of Zoning Adjustment hearing on GWU application to build a new hospital at 900 23rd Street and a parking lot on 22nd Street. Earlier hearings were held November 18 and January 5. Second Floor Hearing Room, Suite 220, 441 4th Street, N.W. 9:30 a.m.

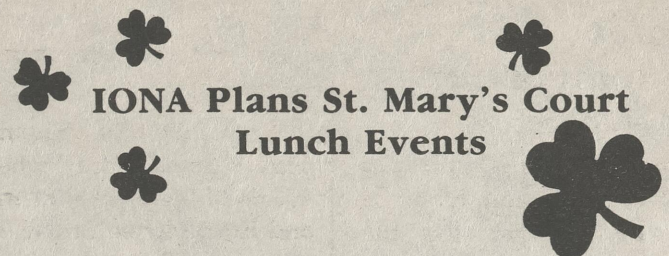
Tuesday, March 2: Workshop, "Becoming a Vegetarian - Vegetarian Menus at Home and On the Go." Presented by Cyndi Reese, MPH, RD, LD, and Vegetarian Nutritionist, GW Center for Integrative Medicine. \$10. Phone 994-8870 for info/reservations. GW Hospital Cafeteria-Special Functions Room, 901 23rd Street, N.W. 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 3: Citizens Advisory Council, Second District headquarters, 3320 Idaho Avenue, N.W., (near Wisconsin and Newark), 7:00 p.m.

Through Thursday, March 4: Exhibition of acrylic on canvas collage paintings, created by Lincoln Heights neighborhood youths, 5-15, celebrating African American History Month. The artists have worked under the direction of Corcoran School of Art graduate Larry Quick, who created the group to provide a medium for them to share their stories. National Academy of Sciences Auditorium Gallery, 2100 C Street, N.W. Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 6: "Law Revue," a musical parody of life and law school and the legal profession. Presented by GWU Law School. \$10. Phone 703-519-7186 for info/tickets. Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st Street, N.W. 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 9: Workshop, "Basics of Swedish Massage," presented by Alan Alper, certified massage therapist and athletic trainer. GW Medical Faculty Associates,



IONA Plans St. Mary's Court Lunch Events

St. Mary's Court lunch events for March include a St. Patrick's Day party March 17, Easter Parade March 31, trips to Air & Space and the Mexican Cultural Institute, and a program on "de-cluttering." For info call Sandi O'Neill at 659-5045.

2150 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 2-105. \$40. Phone 994-8770 for info/reservations. 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 10: PSA 208 Community Meeting, under the direction of Lt. Philip Lanciano. (PSA 208's area is bounded by 22nd, N, 19th, G and 19th Streets and Constitution Avenue.) State Plaza Hotel, 2117 E Street (use F Street entrance), 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 10: Wellness Lecture, "Stress Management = Making Time for Joy," presented by Jane Lincoln, M.S.W. For info/reservation call 1-888-449-3627. GWU Hospital Auditorium, 901 23rd Street, N.W. 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 11: Lecture on Mozart, presented by Frederick Blachly, writer, editor, and cellist. A graduate of the Peabody Conservatory of Music and cellist with the Washington Camerata. West End Library, 24th & L Streets, N.W. 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 11: Center for Integrative Medicine orientation, presenting overview of programs and treatments, Q&A and tour of the Center. GW Medical Faculty Associates, 2150 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 1-402. Phone 994-8770 for info. 6:00 p.m.

Through Friday, March 12: Exhibit of photographs by Marc C. Abrahms and Lorraine Greenfield, capturing people and places they visited in India, Nepal, Indonesia, and Bali. Colonnade Gallery, 800 21st Street, N.W. 7:00 a.m. - midnight, 7 days a week.

Sunday, March 14: Recital, Victoria Castello, pianist, performing favorite works by the great composers. St. Stephen Martyr Church, 2436 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 24: Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC-2A) meeting. Call 659-0011 for location. 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 24: Health Lecture, "Sexuality and the Mid-Life Woman," presented by Nancy Gaba, M.D. GWU Hospital Auditorium, 901 23rd Street, N.W. 7:00 p.m.

Through Thursday, March 25: "Water," an exhibition of paintings by Washington artist Carole Bolsey and Santa Fe artist Julian Sibony. Bolsey's works show waterscapes of the Massachusetts maritime area, and Sibony's are inspired by the Chama River near his New Mexico home. National Academy of Sciences, 2100 C Street, N.W. Phone 334-2436 for information. Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 25: Workshop on Traditional Chinese Medicine, explaining the principles of Chinese philosophy of healthy body mechanics and disease, as well as acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine. Presented by Mengda Shu, D.O.M., Center for Integrative Medicine. GW Medical Faculty Associates, 2150 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. \$40. Phone 994-8770 for info/reservations. 6:00-8:00 p.m.

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Rennie Remembers... India

by Rennie Melonson

Living in New Delhi in 1958 and 1959, as a staff member of the American Embassy, proved to be quite a contrast to my way of living in the USA, i.e. its culture, religions, customs, respect for animals, clothing, languages, food, climate, movies, lack of radio programs and television in English at the time, etc. etc. The new embassy had been completed and occupied in the summer of 1958; the new two-story housing compound for single staff, located in back of it, was shortly thereafter furnished and ready for occupancy. This area became known as the "Diplomatic Enclave" (outside of New Delhi's center), when other embassies were later erected.

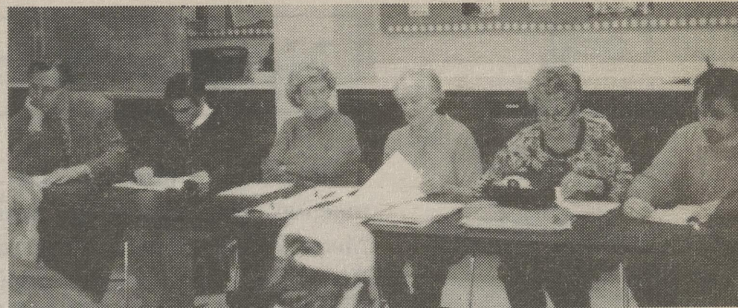
It was then that I hired Suno, a very young male (married with children) to work mornings: washing dishes; purchasing fresh food from roadside vendors and bread from a bakery; picking up reserved movie tickets, my newly-made or repaired shoes and custom-made dresses from dressmaker in center of town, i.e. Connaught Circle or, as British called it, Connaught Circus. And boil water—that's about all. However, he was paid "cook's wages," as I preferred to do my own cooking and not have anyone around when I was at home.

I must say that colleagues, my age and younger, were allowed to have servants like the married staff members or single officers of the embassy, to not only cook all meals but, also, to prepare food and drinks and serve guests at their many cocktail parties. Since there was only one English-speaking movie house (the Rivoli in center city) and no television, parties were held often on weeknights and weekends. I saw no reason for having servants working day and night as I never had help in America—neither did my cohorts, I'd say! I did throw parties on our holidays in order to socialize with Indian friends and people from other embassies.

Foreigners such as I had been warned at orientation to have our water boiled for at least thirty minutes because of bacteria; otherwise, one would get "Delhi Belly" (diarrhea) from drinking tap water. I couldn't understand why I suffered most of my tour with it because I drank a lot of hot tea at the embassy, Indian restaurants and friends' houses and, of course, at my own house. Doctors I sought help from could only prescribe plain bread, hot tea and bland food, which I had to eat many times, unfortunately—oh, to have been able to partake of the wonderful Indian food at Gaylords or parties, and Chinese food at Lalgi Singh's more often! And, of course, chicken tandoori at Moti Mahal's in Old Delhi!

A large covered pot of boiled water sat on my stove daily. Suno was expected to boil water, then ladle it into the ice-cube trays and bottles for the fridge, when needed. Besides this important chore, he had nothing but the other chores to do while I was at work. Early on, I had purchased a bicycle for him as his transportation to perform his chores and for traveling to/from his house to mine. I was shocked to see so many cyclists on the roads day and night rather than auto drivers, as in the USA. I owned a bike that I bought from a lady returning to the States, for only \$25; and I would ride to work as well as go weekend shopping at Connaught Circle and Cottage Industries Building for fabric required by my dressmaker for my dresses. I managed to maneuver in the very crowded streets of hundred of cyclists, trucks, buses, water buffalo, and some cars—with hardly any traffic lights. The unexpected sand storms (very windy) and the monsoon season (off-and-on-rainy periods) were something to contend with on a bike, I found out.

One morning during the last week of my tour, I had decided to go to work a bit later than usual. I heard the front door being opened and knew it was Suno. I called down to him, requesting him to please fill the water bottles and ice-cube trays. To my great astonishment, I heard him turn on the faucet and immediately I rushed down to the kitchen to see him filling the ice-cube trays with TAP WATER—a definite "No! No!" I realized only then that HE was the "cause" of my medical problem of "Delhi Belly." All I could do was reprimand



A very brief, but tranquil ANC meeting was conducted by new ANC Chair Barbara Spillinger with a quorum in attendance for financial report approval only. Several citizens also attended the meeting in the recreation room of St. Mary's Court in early February. Shown, left to right: Richard Price, Steven Mandelbaum, Dorothy Miller, Barbara Spillinger, Maria Tyler and Richard Sheehy
Text & Photo by John Graves

him, although it was really too late—I was leaving at the end of the week. As soon as I flew on the first Pan-American plane out of India (via Calcutta) during Christmas week in 1959, I ate voraciously at all of the stops I had, i.e. enjoyed lobster, and veggies in Hong Kong; variety of Japanese food in Tokyo's old Imperial Hotel (designed by Frank Lloyd Wright) and on a Geisha-House tour; excellent variety of American and Hawaiian food in Honolulu's Salvation Army Restaurant (believe it or not!) and Don Ho's famous club; and, of course, American food in Los Angeles at the original Brown Derby. However, the

ten pounds that I had lost in Delhi—thanks to Suno—were returned to me as a result of my having the time of my life eating enroute to D.C.

Since those years of long ago, I have been treating myself and guests to Indian restaurants here in the D.C. area. I can still reminisce with fondness about the food I did manage to eat in India, as well as the lovely people I met there and in Nepal. Although my weight has increased now that I have retired, I still enjoy eating my ethnic selections. I should use the "Delhi Belly" method of losing weight now, eh what? No, thanks, I'd rather enjoy tasty food!

Joseph O'Donnell, CFA Financial Planning Tax Return Preparation

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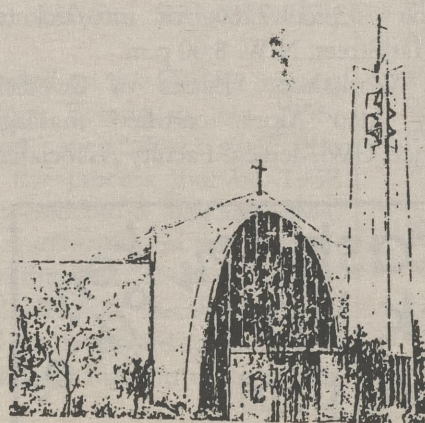
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Average Itemized Deductions

Adj. Gross Income (-000)	Gifts	Taxes	Interest
\$15-30	1,389	2,189	5,427
\$30-50	1,536	3,056	5,873
\$50-100	2,025	5,001	7,220
\$100-200	3,367	9,544	11,023
\$200+	17,973	35,386	22,258

Note: these are merely national averages. You must be able to document your own deductions.

Joseph O'Donnell, CFA



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